Like the blowing of the Pentecostal wind, my home in Houston was suddenly filled with a mixture of Quiché and Spanish. Julio and Martin had come to replace my water heater. But I know that God had sent them to me for so much more.

That day I had been despairing. Worried about the future of the mission, not knowing when we would be able return to Guatemala. Saddened, knowing we had impending layoffs and what this would mean for our dedicated staff, those who were leaving as well as those who were staying. Hurting for those who needed care in Guatemala and knowing that we were limited in what we could do for them for the time being. I was overwhelmed. I felt alone.

And, then, suddenly, there they were in my kitchen, reminding me of God’s steadfast love and faithfulness. Reminding me that even in the moments of despair and uncertainty, there is always hope. Reminding me that in God’s love I was not, we are never, alone. It was as if two angels, two
Guatemalan angels, had suddenly appeared just when I needed them most.

Julio then began to speak. Maybe because he saw so many things from his home in mine, he opened his heart to me. He spoke of the virus, his family, and, as is the Guatemalan way, said, “We must trust in God. We must believe.” He spoke of being a dayworker, getting picked up on the curb each day to earn his living. But he and his friends had been pooling funds, sending money to Guatemala, because, he said, “They are hungry there.” I watched this gentle man’s face as he spoke.

There it was. Eternal peace that underlies and supports and transcends every sadness, every joy. That unmistakable yet elusive peace that calls to me from Guatemala. For nearly twenty years, God has spoken to me most clearly through Guatemala and her people. And, that day, I needed to hear God’s voice, feel God’s peace, in my moment of despair. In the moment when I had felt my heart constricting with sorrow and fear, God brought to me expansive love given with joy and hope through Guatemala, yet again. Enfolding me with God’s eternal peace.

For us who know little of daily uncertainty, this time is so unsettling, so fear-producing. And, yet, God’s eternal peace is all around us. I was having difficulty seeing through the cloud of my own fear and sadness that day, but God broke through. So, in these days of uncertainty, in the days of so many ups and downs, my prayer for you is that you hear the gentle whisper of the Spirit, telling of God’s miracles, big and small, even when, especially when, you feel your heart constricting with sorrow and fear. Speaking to your heart with a message of expansive love filled with joy and hope where and when you need it most, filling you with God’s eternal peace. Who knows, the Spirit just might be showing up on your doorstep to install a water heater.

And be encouraged. For we shall return to our beloved Guatemala. Of that, I have no doubt. God has much more in store for Faith In Practice and for each of us as we continue to encounter our living God through the faith-filled people of Guatemala.

And as together we navigate these stormy seas, please keep Guatemala in your prayers. They whose faith strengthens even as their suffering deepens. They who continue to give abundantly out of their increasing scarcity. They who teach us to believe harder when the believing gets hard. As they always have.

In God’s eternal and transcendent peace,

Rev. Linda L. McCarty  
President & CEO

Forward to a Friend

Our devotional will now be offered monthly. Look for the next one on July 3.  
Take a look at all of our devotionals here.

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Faith In Practice  
7500 Beechnut St Ste 208
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